

New Vicar for St Mark's



The Rev Canon Peter Guinness, currently Vicar of St Thomas's, Lancaster in the Diocese of Blackburn, is to be appointed to St Mark's Gillingham in February 2010.

Peter says:

"I am looking forward to joining you at St Mark's. I hear that you are a great team, and I hope that very quickly we can settle in with you in the church's worship and mission in Gillingham. It will be a wrench to leave St Thomas, Lancaster after 18 years. I shall be leaving a great church community and a wonderful staff team, but the Lord's call to share the next phase of St Mark's journey with you is clear and we pray that the Lord will guide us all together into experiences of his kingdom breaking through. It is a privilege to be invited to do this, and excited as I am, I imagine the next few weeks up to our move will not feel too long."

Peter's wife, Michele, has in the past been a broadcaster with the BBC and ITV, and was, until recently, Head of Communications for the NHS in Lancashire and Cumbria. She gave it up to concentrate on writing. She has written eleven books, contributes to *Christianity*, *Woman Alive*, *Families First* and *the Church of England Newspaper*, and has a very busy speaking schedule that takes her all over the UK, and sometimes abroad.

Michele says: "I was born in Geordieland and have always lived in the North, so it'll take me a while to get used to the funny way of talking down south. I was also raised in a Jewish family - and you think you have problems! But because of that, I love food, fun, worship and celebration, and it will be lovely to share them with new friends and family."